

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANA 00659 150805Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /077 W  
-----150809Z 044635 /11

R 150550Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0423  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USCINCEUR  
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0659

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, YE, ET, FR  
SUBJ: YEMENI PRESIDENT ON RECENT BAB AL-MANDEB OVERFLIGHTS

REF: 76 SANA 4346, SANA 618

1. DURING FEBRUARY 13 MEETING I REMINDED PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI OF HIS PROMISE (SEE SANA 4346) TO PROVIDE ME WITH ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE ON THE RECENT OVERFLIGHTS OF THE BAB AL-MANDEB REGION BY UNIDENTIFIED PLANES. PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI SAID THAT AS OF NOW IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHOSE PLANES WERE INVOLVED BUT HE THOUGHT THEY WERE EITHER ETHIOPIAN OR FRENCH WITH THE GREATER POSSIBILITY BEING FRENCH. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL SHELLS RECOVERED AFTER THE EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN YEMENI GROUND FORCES AND THE PLANES IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY THE PROVENANCE OF THE SHELLS.

2. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION ABOUT WHAT, IF ANYTHING,  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANA 00659 150805Z

THE YEMENIS ARE GOING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION IN BAB AL-MANDEB, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT OVER THE LAST YEAR JORDANIAN EXPERTS HAVE BEEN HELPING THE YEMENIS TO FORTIFY THE AREA USING RUSSIAN EQUIPMENT PRESENTLY IN THE YEMENI ARMY'S INVENTORY. HE LAUGHINGLY NOTED THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN PRESSING HIM OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS TO FIND OUT WHAT

AMERICAN EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN PLACED THERE, NOT KNOWING THAT IT IS IN FACT RUSSIAN EQUIPMENT. THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED THAT THE SAUDIES HAVE ALSO INDICATED A READINESS TO HELP THE YEMENIS WITH THE BAB AL-MANDEB DEFENSES BUT THUS FAR NOTHING FIRM HAS BEEN WORKED OUT.

3. I ASKED THE PRESIDENT IF MY MILITARY ATTACHE AND I MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO VISIT BAB AL-MANDEB. HE REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE STATING THAT ANY TIME I WISHED TO GO I SHOULD INFORM CHIEF-OF-STAFF AL-GHASHMI AND A "PRIVATE VISIT WOULD BE ARRANGED".

4. COMMENT: THE BAB AL-MANDEB MYSTERY CONTINUES BUT THE YEMENIS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE THE SAUDIES OF THE NEED TO DO SOMETHING. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT THAT SOMETHING FIANLLY TURNS OUT TO BE BUT RECENT INDICATIONS FROM THE SAUDI MISSION HERE POINT TO A GREATER SAUDI INVOLVEMENT THAN IN THE PAST. (SEE SANA 618).  
SCOTES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SANA00659  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770053-0246  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SANA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770240/aaaabjly.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4a3a4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 SANA 4346, 77 SANA 618  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3318509  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** YEMENI PRESIDENT ON RECENT BAB AL-MANDEB OVERFLIGHTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, YE, ET, FR, (AL-HAMDI, IBRAHIM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4a3a4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009